

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (cancelled).

14 (original). An endoscope suitable for autoclaving comprising:

an elastic member having at least part thereof engaged with the surface of the housing of said endoscope under the atmospheric pressure so that said endoscope will be kept fluid-tight,

wherein said elastic member includes as at least part thereof a seal portion that separates from the surface of the housing of said endoscope under predetermined pressure that is oriented from the inner surface of said elastic member to the outer surface thereof.

15 (original). An endoscope according to Claim 14, wherein said predetermined pressure is pressure lower than pressure released at a decompression step of autoclaving.

16 (new). An endoscope according to claim 14, wherein an inner diameter, thickness and material of said seal portion are set to values that permit separation of said seal portion from said surface of said housing.

17 (new). An endoscope according to claim 14, wherein said seal portion comprises a resin material.